

## Some interesting moths seen in Devon during 2004 and 2005

### Pyralidae

#### *Evergestis limbata* L.

A specimen of this species was taken at light by Mr. B. King on 15 July 2004 at Kingsteignton. This is the first record for Devon. Two more specimens were taken at light during 2005 — \*Teignmouth, 25 June (RFMcC) and \*Kingsteignton, 13 July (B. King).

#### *Anania verbascalis* D. & S.

A specimen of this species was captured at light by Mr. I. Lakin at \*Lincombe, Sidmouth, 25 July 2005. This is the first confirmed record for Devon. Beirne (1954. *British Pyralid and Plume Moths*), gives "Devon", but the source cannot be traced.

#### *Psammotis pulveralis* Hb.

A specimen of this species was taken at light, \*Uplyme, near Lyme Regis on 8 August 2004 by O. Woodland and is the first record for Devon.

#### *Conobathra tumidana* D. & S.

A specimen of this species was seen at light and photographed on 11 July 2005 at Plymouth, Crownhill by Mr. J. L. Beswetherick. A copy of the photograph has been seen by me and represents the first confirmed record for Devon. A second example was taken at light at \*Teignmouth, on 20 July 2005 by myself. There have been vague references to Devon records of this species in the past: Meyrick (1927.) says "Kent to Devon, Suffolk local. Paignton, 30.vi.1932, P. P. Millman", but Stidston (1958. *Rep. Trans. Devon Ass. Advmt. Sci.* **90**: 208), gives "Devon (Meyrick); Paignton (doubtful)". Skinner (*Ent. Rec.* **107**: 241-243) in his review of British records of this species in makes no mention of any specimen from Devon.

### Geometridae

#### *Idaea trigeminata* Haw.

A specimen of this species was taken at light by B. King ON 23 June 2005 at \*Kingsteignton. Down through the ages, this species has been recorded by generations of lepidopterists; Parfitt, E. (1878. *The Fauna of Devon, Lepidoptera. Rep. Trans. Devon Assoc. Advmt. Sci.* **10**: 412-588) through to Stidston (1952. *Lepidoptera of Devon*) have mentioned it, but the Victoria County History, published in 1906, considers that "... *this has been recorded in error in some cases for a variety of the last species [I. dimidiata Single-dotted Wave]*". During the 1960s, Lees gives "Maidencombe, odd specimens" but there are no dates in the Devonshire Association Record books and no specimens in his collection at The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter]. A. H. Dobson, Devonshire Association Macrolepidoptera recorder from 1963 – 1970, says of a record from Torquay [Maidencombe is part of the Torquay area] "I believe this to be an error. Dark banded forms of *biselata* [Small Fan-footed Wave] are common, but I have never found a single specimen of *trigeminata* [Treble Brown-spot] since

collecting there". There have been several records from 1980 to 1995 with, as far as I know, no vouchers being taken. Since I have been living in Devon from 1993, I have never seen a specimen of this species in Devon until now and I consider that errors of identification have been made.

*Cydophora pendularia* Cl.

A specimen of this species was taken at light in the \*Hatherleigh area by Mr. K Wolton on 17 June 2005. The VCH (1906) says "Recorded at Tiverton by Mr. C. M. Major" [should be C. M. Mayor]. Stidston, (1952. *op. cit.*) says "Rare" and repeats the VCH record before continuing with "1906, Aug., Lincombe Drive, Torquay, J. Walker". This record is regarded as suspect in the DA Record Book]. More recently there are records from Chudleigh Clay Pits – one in 1933, two larvae in 1935 and one on 13 May 1936 (C. Q. Parsons). The current specimen is the first since the 1930s.

*Thera cupressata* Geyer

This species has been seen on a regular basis at the Dawlish site since the first Devon record there at light on 23 November 1999 by P. Franghiadi (*Ent. Rec.* **112**: 106 and *Rep. Trans. Devon Ass. Advmt Sci.* **132**: 343). One was taken by C. Hart at Branscombe on 14 June 2003 and the moth can now be found at Ilsham Marine Drive, Torquay; specimens seen from 2004, with larvae being beaten from the "Cupressus" trees at Thatcher Point, Torquay in May 2005 (B. Henwood). One was taken by myself at \*Holcombe on 24 June 2005, a new site although this could have been a vagrant from the Torquay area.

**Noctuidae**

*Euxoa crassa* Hb.

A specimen of this species was taken at light at \*Uplyme, near Lyme Regis on 8 August 2004 by O. Woodland. This is the first Devon record. A further specimen was captured at light at \*Ilsham Marine Drive, Torquay on 10 August 2005 by B. Deakins.

*Dryobota labecula* Esp.

A specimen of this species was taken at Holcombe, near Teignmouth on 9 December, 2005; the first warm night for a couple of weeks. This is the first record for Devon and the specimen was exhibited at the Devonshire Association Meeting on 28 January 2006.

*Catocala nymphagoga* Esp.

The first record for Devon of this species was taken at light at \*Holcombe, 26 August 2005, by myself and is also the fourth British record (previous records being Tregaron, Cardiganshire, 28 July 1982, New Forest, Hampshire, 31 July 1982 and Central London, 4 September 2002).

Specimens indicated with an asterisk (\*) are in my own collection.— ROY McCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.